

REMARKS

Claims 5-8, 10, 12, 14-20, 28-31, 33, and 35-36 are pending. Claims 1-4, 9, 11, 13, 21-27, 32, 34 are canceled. The Examiner's invitation to present the above proposed amendment is greatly appreciated. Consideration thereof is respectfully requested. No new matter will be added.

Four total independent claims remain pending, i.e., claims 14, 18, 31, and 36. Thus, no additional claim fee is deemed necessary. Claims 14 and 31 have been placed into an independent format. Redundant language (which is already in b) has been deleted from claim 18 at (c). New article claim 36, which replaces the previous article claim 32, corresponds to claim 18. Claim 36 has been added to constitute the allotted fourth independent claim.

Applicant respectfully submits that entry of the above proposed amendment will place the application in condition for allowance. Thus, the *Examiner is authorized to enter the proposed amendment by Examiner's Amendment* without prejudice, in order to place the application in condition for allowance. As a courtesy to the Office, a clean version (having numbered pages C1-C9) of the above proposed amendment is attached for use in the Examiner's Amendment.

The undersigned is willing to discuss any aspect of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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